



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ASMFC American Lobster Board Approves Draft Amendment 4 PID for Public Review & Comment *Amendment to Address Conservation Equivalency*

Arlington, Virginia – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission today approved the Public Information Document (PID) for Amendment 4 to the American Lobster Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for public review and comment. It is anticipated that many of the States from Maine through New Jersey will be holding meetings on the Addendum to gather public input. These meetings will be scheduled for March and April. Information on these meetings will be released once it becomes available.

The PID, which was approved by the American Lobster Management Board, addresses options for the use of conservation equivalency for the non-trap gear limits and v-notch possession restrictions of Amendment 3. The concept of conservation equivalency is not a new one to the Commission and has been used in many of its fishery management plans. It provides states with the flexibility to adopt alternative management approaches, given that these approaches have been found to be conservationally similar to the required management measures. In the case of lobster management, alternative management measures will be required to meet the revised egg rebuilding schedule contained in Addendum II.

Copies of the Public Information Document will be available by late February 2001. Once available, copies of the PID can be obtained by contacting either Vanessa Jones, Administrative Assistant, at (202) 289-6400, or via the Commission's web site under "Public Input" at www.asmfc.org. Public comment should be forwarded to Heather Stirratt, American Lobster Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 1444 Eye Street, N.W., Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (fax). For more information, please contact Heather Stirratt at (202) 289-6400, ext. 301, or hstirratt@asmfc.org.

NOTE TO PRESS: If you would like to receive the Commission's press releases via email, please contact Tina Berger, Public Affairs & Resource Specialist, at tberger@asmfc.org or fax to (202) 289-6051.

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

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